

MISCELLANEOUS MAXIMS AND OPINIONS.

173 386.

A DEFECTIVE EAR.—"We still belong to the mob so long as we always 'shift the blame on to others; we are on the track of wisdom when we always make ourselves alone responsible; but the wise man finds no one to blame, neither himself nor others/'—Who said that ? Epictetus, eighteen hundred years ago.—The world has heard .but forgotten the saying.—No, the world has not heard and not forgotten it: everything is not forgotten. But we had not the necessary ear, the ear of Epictetus.— So he whispered it into his own ear ?—Even so: wisdom Is the whispering of the sage to himself in the crowded market-place.

387.

A DEFECT OF STANDPOINT, NOT OF VISION.— We always stand a few paces too near ourselves and a few paces too far from our neighbour. Hence we judge him too much in the lump, and ourselves too much by Individual, occasional, insignificant features and circumstances.

388.

IGNORANCE ABOUT WEAPONS.—How little we care whether another knows a subject or not!— whereas he perhaps sweats blood at the bare Idea that he may be considered ignorant on the point. Yes, there are exquisite fools, who always go about with a quiverful of mighty, excommunicatory utterances, ready to shoot down any one who shows freely that there are matters in. which their judgment is not taken into account